

Claims

- [c1] A method of detecting fraudulent Internet traffic sent from a first web site to a second web site comprising:
- providing a first web site database having a list of first web sites likely to send bad traffic;
 - providing a hypertext link to the second web site on the first web site;
 - after an Internet user having a web browser clicks on the link transferring the Internet user to an intermediate web site that gathers information from the Internet user web browser; and
 - determining if a validation request is required.
- [c2] The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first web site is an affiliate web site.
- [c3] The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the second web site is an advertiser web site.
- [c4] The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the step of providing a first web site capable of displaying a hypertext link to the second web site includes receiving a keyword search from the Internet user, preparing a result list relevant to the keyword search, and providing at

least one hypertext link on the first web site that is relevant to the keyword search.

- [c5] The method is claimed in claim 3 wherein the hypertext link includes an advertisement of the advertiser web site.
- [c6] The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the intermediate web site includes a redirect page capable of determining if the validation request is required.
- [c7] The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising causing the transmission of the second web site to the Internet user if the first web site is not listed in the first web site database.
- [c8] The method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising compensating the first web site for causing the transmission of the second web site to the Internet user.
- [c9] The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of determining if a validation request is required includes determining if the first web site is listed in the first web site database.
- [c10] The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the validation request includes providing a survey form with at least one input for the Internet user to input information.
- [c11] The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the valida-

tion request includes collecting the input information into a survey database.

[c12] The method of claim 11 wherein the validation request includes analyzing the input information in the survey database to determine if the first web site should be listed in the first web site database.

[c13] The method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising causing the transmission of the second web site to the Internet user.

[c14] The method as claimed in claim 13 further comprising compensating the first web site for causing the transmission of the second web site to the Internet user.

[c15] The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of determining if a validation request is required includes randomly causing the validation request.

[c16] The method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the validation request includes providing a survey page with at least one input for the Internet user to input information.

[c17] The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the validation request includes collecting the input information into a survey database.

[c18] The method as claimed in claim 17 further comprising

causing the transmission of the second web site to the Internet user.

[c19] The method as claimed in claim 18 further comprising compensating the first web site for causing the transmission of the second web site to the Internet user.

[c20] A method of determining if an affiliate web site sends bad traffic to an advertiser web site in a system comprising an affiliate web site providing an advertiser link to an advertiser web site, the affiliate web site receiving compensation if an Internet user having a web browser clicks on the advertiser link and causes the transmission of the advertiser web site to the Internet user, the method comprising:

- determining if the web browser has cookies enabled;
- determining a language of the web browser;
- determining an amount of time that the Internet user spends on the advertiser web site; and
- determining a total amount of times that the affiliate web site causes the transmission of the advertiser web site to the Internet user.

[c21] The method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising determining if the Internet user causes a mouse operably coupled to the Internet user web browser to move.

- [c22] The method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising determining if the Internet user receives an incentive from the affiliate web site for clicking on the advertiser link.
- [c23] A method of determining if an affiliate web site sends bad traffic to an advertiser web site in a system comprising an affiliate web site capable of receiving a keyword search from an Internet user having a web browser and providing at least one advertiser link to an advertiser web site based upon the keyword search, the affiliate web site receiving compensation if the Internet user clicks on the advertiser link and causes the transmission of the advertiser web site to the Internet user, the method comprising:
- determining an amount of time that the Internet user spends on the advertiser web site after; and
 - determining if the advertiser web site is relevant to the keyword search.
- [c24] The method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising determining a total amount of times that the affiliate web site causes the transmission of the advertiser web site to the Internet user.
- [c25] The method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising determining if the Internet user causes a mouse operably

coupled to the Internet user web browser to move.

[c26] The method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising determining if the Internet user receives an incentive from the affiliate web site for clicking on the advertiser link.

[c27] The method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising determining if the web browser has cookies enabled.

[c28] The method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising determining a language of the web browser.